

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus directed to detecting DoS (denial of service) attacks against SIP enabled devices. A substantial imbalance between an accounting of SIP INVITE (INV) and SIP 180 Ringing (N_{180}) messages indicates a DoS attack. Preferably the number (H) of INVITE messages including credentials (INV_c) that are sent from a user client in response to a 407 Authentication Required message from a proxy server are removed from the accounting before the balance is tested. If the equation $INV_0 + INV_c - H = N_{180}$ (where INV_0 is the number of INVITE messages without credentials) is not true within a small margin of error then the presence of a current DoS attack on the proxy server is indicated by the inequality.